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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL (Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))	Attorney Docket No.	26349.16
	First Inventor or Application Identifier	Mike Ashdown
	Title	NEW AND IMPROVED SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DATA TRAFFIC REDIRECTION
	Express Mail Label No.	EL493680542US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.	ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Box Patent Application Washington, DC 20231																														
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APPLICANT or PATENTEE Mike Ashdown, Hu Shen, Steve Lynchard

Serial or Patent No.: N/A

Attorney's Docket No. 26349.16

Filed or Issued: Herewith

For: NEW AND IMPROVED SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DATA TRAFFIC REDIRECTION

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 C.F.R. § 1.9(f) and 1.27(c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

I hereby declare that I am:

- ☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:
☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN Sevis Systems, Inc.

ADDRESS OF CONCERN 17950 Preston Road, Suite 700, Dallas, Texas 75252

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 C.F.R. § 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 C.F.R. § 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is in the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, parttime or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention, entitled NEW AND IMPROVED SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DATA TRAFFIC REDIRECTION described in:

- ☒ the specification filed herewith.
☐ application serial no. _____, filed _____.
☐ patent no. _____, issued _____.

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small business concern under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9(d) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9(e). *NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 C.F.R. § 1.27)

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I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 C.F.R. § 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

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D-758686.1

DATE: 3-20-2000

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Mike Ashdown et al.

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Docket Number: 26349.16

Serial No.: N/A

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Filed: Herewith

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METHOD FOR DATA TRAFFIC
REDIRECTIONBox Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

Express Mail Number: EL493680542 USDate of Deposit: March 28, 2000

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1. Utility Patent Application Transmittal Sheet;
2. Fee Transmittal Sheet (in duplicate)
3. Patent Application consisting of: 15 pages of Specification, 21 Claims, 1 page of Abstract;
4. 4 Drawing sheets;
5. Declaration and Power of Attorney;
6. Assignment with Recordation Coversheet;
7. Small Entity Statement;
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NEW AND IMPROVED SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DATA TRAFFIC REDIRECTION

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<u>Gayle Conner</u> NAME OF PERSON MAILING PAPER AND FEE	<u>Gayle Conner</u> SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAILING PAPER AND FEE

**NEW AND IMPROVED SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
DATA TRAFFIC REDIRECTION**

RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS

This application relates to the following co-pending United States Patent Application, incorporates them by reference in their entirety and is assigned to the assignee of the present invention:

Serial No.:	Filing Date:	Inventors:	Title:
_____	####/##/##	Ashdown et al.	Intelligent Communications Point Platform
_____	####/##/##	Ashdown et al.	System and Method for a Local Number Portability Cache
09/391,295	09/07/99	Ashdown et al.	SS7 Firewall System

BACKGROUND

The invention relates generally to telecommunications networks and, more particularly, to a system and method for redirecting data traffic from a Signaling System 7 (SS7) network to a data network.

The SS7 network is the backbone of the world's telecommunications networks. Service providers across the globe rely on the SS7 network to implement setup, routing, and control of a call, as well as to provide to

residential, business, and government customers advanced services such as 800 and 900 calling, caller ID, local number portability, and calling card verification. Without the SS7 network, the world's telecommunications networks would cease to function properly.

5 The SS7 network is comprised of a number of different types of signaling nodes, including Service Switching Points ("SSPs" and generally referred to as the "switch"), Signaling Transfer Points ("STPs"), and Service Control Points ("SCPs"). SSPs originate, manage, and terminate calls. SCPs act as centralized databases that validate, authorize, and answer service requests from SSPs, such as how to route an 800 number call. STPs route SS7 messages between SSPs, SCPs, and other STPs. The SS7 network was designed for an average voice call of about three to five minutes.

10 However, the booming growth of the Internet and remote access to data services from businesses, homes and schools has resulted in an unprecedented increase in data traffic and a strain on the SS7 network and the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) in general. The average Internet call has been recently estimated to be about 20 minutes or more. To make matters worse, users often leave their lines open for hours, completely tying up all circuits and trunks between the user and the Internet Service Provider (ISP).
15 These long hold time Internet calls increase the number of callers not getting a dial tone or receiving a quick busy signal, causing capacity management problems for telecommunication service providers.

20 Diverting Internet traffic away from the PSTN has been attempted by a few vendors using a suite of products. The solutions usually fall into two categories. One category is to intercept calls from the caller before the calls get to the ingress switch. However, the solutions that implement this method have some problems. First of all, the switch may not be aware that the call has
25

been intercepted and the caller is busy, and thus can not provide class services properly (call forwarding, voice mail indicating, automatic callback...).

The other category is a post-switch solution. This type of solution utilizes the ingress switch, but redirects the data traffic before it gets to the egress switch. Usually, the sooner it redirects the traffic, means more efficient use of the PSTN.

Therefore, what is needed is an efficient, transparent, and cost effective method to redirect data traffic away from the PSTN in order not to tie up unnecessary voice circuits and/or switches.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention, accordingly, provides a system and method for redirecting Internet calls in the post switch configuration utilizing an intelligent communications platform (ICP). The ICP seamlessly intercepts SS7 messages directed to the SS7 network from an ingress switch and determines which messages indicate data traffic, and accordingly redirects data traffic to a data network.

The present invention includes a data traffic offload software application residing on the ICP and on an intelligent communications manager (ICM). The data traffic offload software application intercepts transaction capability application part (TCAP) queries and provides a response on behalf of the addressed service control point (SCP). By responding to requests, the offload software application can re-route calls to separate trunk groups specifically provisioned for data calls. The offload software application also intercepts any ISUP messages and is therefore aware of all ingress calls to a data services provider subtended at the SSP. The offload software application is also capable of denying all calls to the data services provider at the ingress or egress switches.

The ICM includes two software applications, a communications controller and a graphical user interface (GUI). The communications controller provides a centralized point for command and control while the GUI allows users to interface with the controller from multiple locations.

5 A system and method for intelligently redirecting data traffic from a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) to a data network is described. The system can include: an intelligent communications platform connected between a switch and a Signaling System 7 (SS7) network to intercept SS7 messages between the switch and the SS7 network; and a communications control module connected to the intelligent communications platform via a
10 Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) link, the communications control module for providing management and communications to the ICP and providing access to the management and communication for a plurality of subscribers. The ICP can include an SS7 I/O
15 card for processing SS7 messages and a CPU card for processing ISUP and TCAP. The communications control module can include: instructions for receiving messages from other ICPs for updated information on congestion on certain routes. The communications control module can also include instructions for receiving messages from other ICPs for updated information
20 on congestion on certain routes. The communications control module can include: instructions for the plurality of subscribers to enter respective access line availability, alternative access numbers; and instructions for a plurality of users to populate respective user profiles. The GUI can allow internet service providers (ISP) to update information on status of a plurality of modem banks
25 within the ISP, and can allow a network engineer to view traffic congestion and redirect traffic if necessary.

 These and other objectives and features of the invention encompass a comprehensive system for redirecting data traffic from a voice network to a

data network. Therefore, in accordance with the previous summary, objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent to one skilled in the art from the subsequent description and the appended claims taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

5 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

FIG. 1 is a schematic block diagram of a normal dial-up Internet session utilizing the PSTN and the SS7 network;

FIG. 2 is a schematic block diagram of a dial-up Internet session utilizing the preferred embodiment;

10 FIG. 3 is a more detailed functional block diagram of the system of FIG. 2; and

FIG. 4 is a detailed implementation of the preferred embodiment focusing on a telecommunications switch.

15 **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

20 In FIG. 1, a reference numeral 100 designates a user at a computer connected to a switch 102 at an ingress central office (CO) 104. Depicted in the rest of figure 1, is another switch 106 in the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) 108 connected to the ingress switch 102. The Internet Service Provider (ISP) 110 has a modem bank 112 connected to the switch 114 at the egress CO 116. The egress switch 114 is in turn connected to another switch 118 within the PSTN 108. Figure 1 does not show any other switches between switch 106 and switch 118, but in actuality, the preferred embodiment could have many more switches between the ingress switch 102 and the egress switch 114 or none at all. In addition, all switches 102, 106, 118, and 114 shown in figure 1 are connected to the Signaling System 7 (SS7) worldwide network 120. Within the SS7 network 120 are numerous Signaling Transfer

Points (STPs) and Signaling Control Points (SCPs). Moreover, the ingress switch 102 and the ISP 110 are connected to the data network 122. Although, the ISP 110 is shown to be directly connected to the data network, in actuality, the ISP 110 can also be connected to the data network 122 through the egress switch 114.

In the example shown in figure 1, a user would establish a dial-up Internet session by connecting the computer 100 through the ingress switch 102. The ingress switch 102 would then use TCAP/ISUP to establish a connection to the routed switch(s) within the PSTN in order to establish a voice circuit through the PSTN to the egress switch 114 to connect to the ISP's 110 modem bank 112. As the call gets established, voice circuits from the ingress switch 104 to the egress switch 114 get committed along with the switch resources along the way. In the meantime, if the modem bank 112 does not have any lines open, the caller gets a busy signal and then disconnects and tries again. The caller usually calls the ISP several more times before a call is connected to the ISP modem bank 112 or the caller gives up. Each attempt, ties up voice circuits and switch resources. In addition, when the caller does connect to the ISP modem bank 112, the average Internet session is almost always more than the average voice call which is three to five minutes, and what the PSTN is provisioned for.

In figure 2, the same elements are depicted as figure 1, except that an Internet Offload Application (IOA) is shown as element 130. The IOA 130 intercepts the TCAP/ISUP signaling from the ingress switch 102 to the SS7 network. Once the IOA 130 recognized that the called party is a data session, the IOA routes the call directly through the data network 122 to the called ISP 110. The rerouting saves the PSTN valuable resources that were designed for voice calls by not tying up any switch resources or voice circuits beyond the ingress switch 102.

Figure 3 shows more details on how the IOA 130 actually works. First of all, the IOA 130 includes an Intelligent Communications Platform (ICP) 132 and Intelligent Communications Manager (ICM) 134. The ICM 134 includes the Communications Controller (CC) 136 and a Graphical User Interface (GUI) 138. The CC 136 provides a centralized point for command control while the GUI 138 allows users to interface with the controller from multiple locations. The ICP 132 recognizes a call to an ISP and then communicates with the ingress switch 102 using the TCAP messaging protocol. The ICP 132 can recognize the call to an ISP by using Automatic Number Identification (ANI) triggers such as Local Number Portability (LNP) or Special Access Codes (SAC) translation. Accordingly, when the user dials an ISP, the ingress switch 102 launches a TCAP query asking how to direct the phone call. Since the IOA contains both an ISP service profile and an ISP subscriber profile, the IOA can determine the best route to any of the multiple ISP locations and block calls when all accesses to an ISP are busy. In addition, calls in progress can be disconnected by the IOA with the use of the ISUP messaging protocol. Then, when the user calls back, the call will be redirected over a different (probably less busy or less costly) route. This will then allow network engineers to offload Internet traffic onto trunk groups provisioned specifically for data calls in a flexible way. Moreover, time of day based routing is also provided by the system.

The IOA also dynamically assigns trunk groups to meet peak hour demands along with "least cost" routing. To perform this, the ICM communicates with all ICPs within a network and dynamically configures each IOA based on time, trunk utilization, and other customer configurable parameters. The interface between the end users (ISPs and carriers) and the communications controller software is implemented in TCP/IP. The communications controller system is configured to meet high availability

requirements (99.999% uptime), high traffic demands, and can be easily maintained. The GUI is preferably written in a software language that can support multiple platforms, including Sun Microsystems Solaris, Microsoft Windows NT and Linux. In addition, the ICM provides "on the fly" configuration, visibility into network traffic, supports multiple GUI users, and can even meet high availability, and central office up-time requirements.

Figure 4 illustrates an example implementation of the ICP connected to an example switch 140. Switch 140 contains 3 racks of circuits and associated equipment along with an SS7 module that executes all of the signaling to the SS7 network. In this embodiment, the ICP would be connected to the SS7 signaling module and the SS7 network in order to intercept all SS7 messages from the switch 140 and then relay them to the SS7 network. However, although the ICP and SS7 signaling module are shown to be two distinct and separate systems, they could be both combined by the switch manufacturer or a systems integrator and still achieve the goals of the invention.

It is understood that the present invention can take many forms and embodiments. The embodiments shown herein are intended to illustrate rather than to limit the invention, it being appreciated that variations may be made without departing from the spirit of the scope of the invention. The algorithms and process functions performed by the system may be organized into any number of different modules or computer programs for operation on one or more processors or workstations within the system. Different configurations of computers and processors for the system are contemplated. The system and method may be implemented completely separate from the switch or totally integrated into a switch and still accomplish the goals of the invention. In addition, the programs used to implement the methods and processes of the system may be implemented in any appropriate programming language and run in cooperation with any hardware device. The system may

be used for network service providers, Internet Service Providers, enterprises, and many other entities utilizing SS7 signaling devices.

5 Accordingly, although illustrative embodiments of the invention have been shown and described, a wide range of modification, change and substitution is intended in the foregoing disclosure and in some instances some features of the present invention may be employed without a corresponding use of the other features. Therefore, it is appropriate that the appended claims be construed broadly and in a manner consistent with the scope of the invention.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. Apparatus for intelligently redirecting data traffic from a Public
2 Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) to a data network, the apparatus
3 comprising:
4 an intelligent communications platform connected between a switch and
5 a Signaling System 7 (SS7) network to intercept SS7 messages between the
6 switch and the SS7 network; and
7 a communications control module connected to the intelligent
8 communications platform via a Transmission Control Protocol/Internet
9 Protocol (TCP/IP) link, the communications control module for providing
10 management and communications to the ICP and providing access to the
11 management and communication for a plurality of subscribers.
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the ICP includes:
2 an SS7 I/O card for processing SS7 messages; and
3 a CPU card for processing ISUP and TCAP.
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the communications control
2 module includes:
3 instructions for receiving messages from other ICPs for updated
4 information on congestion on certain routes.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the communications control
2 module includes:
3 instructions for receiving messages from other ICPs for updated
4 information on congestion on certain routes.

1 5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the communications control
2 module includes:
3 instructions for the plurality of subscribers to enter respective access
4 line availability, alternative access numbers; and
5 instructions for a plurality of users to populate respective user profiles.

1 6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the GUI allows internet service
2 providers (ISP) to update information on status of a plurality of modem banks
3 within the ISP.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the GUI allows a network
2 engineer to view traffic congestion and redirect traffic if necessary.

1 8. A system for intelligently redirecting data traffic from a Public
2 Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) to a data network, the system
3 comprising:

4 instructions for an intelligent communications platform connected
5 between a switch and a Signaling System 7 (SS7) network to intercept SS7
6 messages between the switch and the SS7 network; and

7 instructions for a communications control module connected to the
8 intelligent communications platform via a Transmission Control
9 Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) link to provide management and
10 communications to the ICP and to provide access to the management and
11 communication for a plurality of subscribers.

1 9. The system of claim 8 further including:
2 instructions for an SS7 I/O card to process SS7 messages; and
3 instructions for a CPU card to process ISUP and TCAP.

1 10. The system of claim 8 further including instructions for receiving
2 messages from other ICPs for updated information on congestion on certain
3 routes.

1 11. The system of claim 8 further including instructions for receiving
2 messages from other ICPs for updated information on congestion on certain
3 routes.

1 12. The system of claim 8 further including:
2 instructions for the plurality of subscribers to enter respective access
3 line availability, alternative access numbers; and
4 instructions for a plurality of users to populate respective user profiles.

1 13. The system of claim 8 further including instructions for the GUI
2 to allow internet service providers (ISP) to update information on status of a
3 plurality of modem banks within the ISP.

1 14. The system of claim 8 further including instructions for the GUI
2 to allow a network engineer to view traffic congestion and redirect traffic if
3 necessary.

1 15. A method for intelligently redirecting data traffic from a Public
2 Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) to a data network, the method
3 comprising:
4 intercepting Signaling System 7 (SS7) messages by an intelligent
5 communications platform connected between a switch and a Signaling System
6 7 (SS7) network, wherein the SS7 messages are from the switch and to the SS7
7 network;
8 providing management and communications control from a
9 communications control module connected to the intelligent communications
10 platform via a Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) link;
11 and
12 providing access to the communications control module to a plurality of
13 subscribers.

1 16. The method of claim 15 further including:
2 processing SS7 messages with an SS7 I/O card; and
3 processing ISUP and TCAP messages with a CPU card.

1 17. The method of claim 15 further including receiving messages
2 from other ICPs for updated information on congestion on certain routes.

1 18. The method of claim 15 further including receiving messages
2 from other ICPs for updated information on congestion on certain routes.

1 19. The method of claim 15 further including:
2 providing the ability for the plurality of subscribers to enter respective
3 access line availability, alternative access numbers; and
4 providing the ability for a plurality of users to populate respective user
5 profiles.

1 20. The method of claim 15 further including providing the ability for
2 the GUI to allow internet service providers (ISP) to update information on
3 status of a plurality of modem banks within the ISP.

1 21. The method of claim 8 further including providing the ability for
2 the GUI to allow a network engineer to view traffic congestion and redirect
3 traffic if necessary.

**NEW AND IMPROVED SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
DATA TRAFFIC REDIRECTION**

ABSTRACT

A system and method for intelligently redirecting data traffic from a
5 Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) to a data network. The system
can include: an intelligent communications platform connected between a
switch and a Signaling System 7 (SS7) network to intercept SS7 messages
between the switch and the SS7 network; and a communications control
10 module connected to the intelligent communications platform via a
Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) link, the
communications control module for providing management and
communications to the ICP and providing access to the management and
communication for a plurality of subscribers. The ICP can include an SS7 I/O
15 card for processing SS7 messages and a CPU card for processing ISUP and
TCAP. The communications control module can include: instructions for
receiving messages from other ICPs for updated information on congestion on
certain routes. The communications control module can also include
instructions for receiving messages from other ICPs for updated information
20 on congestion on certain routes. The communications control module can
include: instructions for the plurality of subscribers to enter respective access
line availability, alternative access numbers; and instructions for a plurality of
users to populate respective user profiles. The GUI can allow internet service
providers (ISP) to update information on status of a plurality of modem banks
25 within the ISP, and can allow a network engineer to view traffic congestion
and redirect traffic if necessary.

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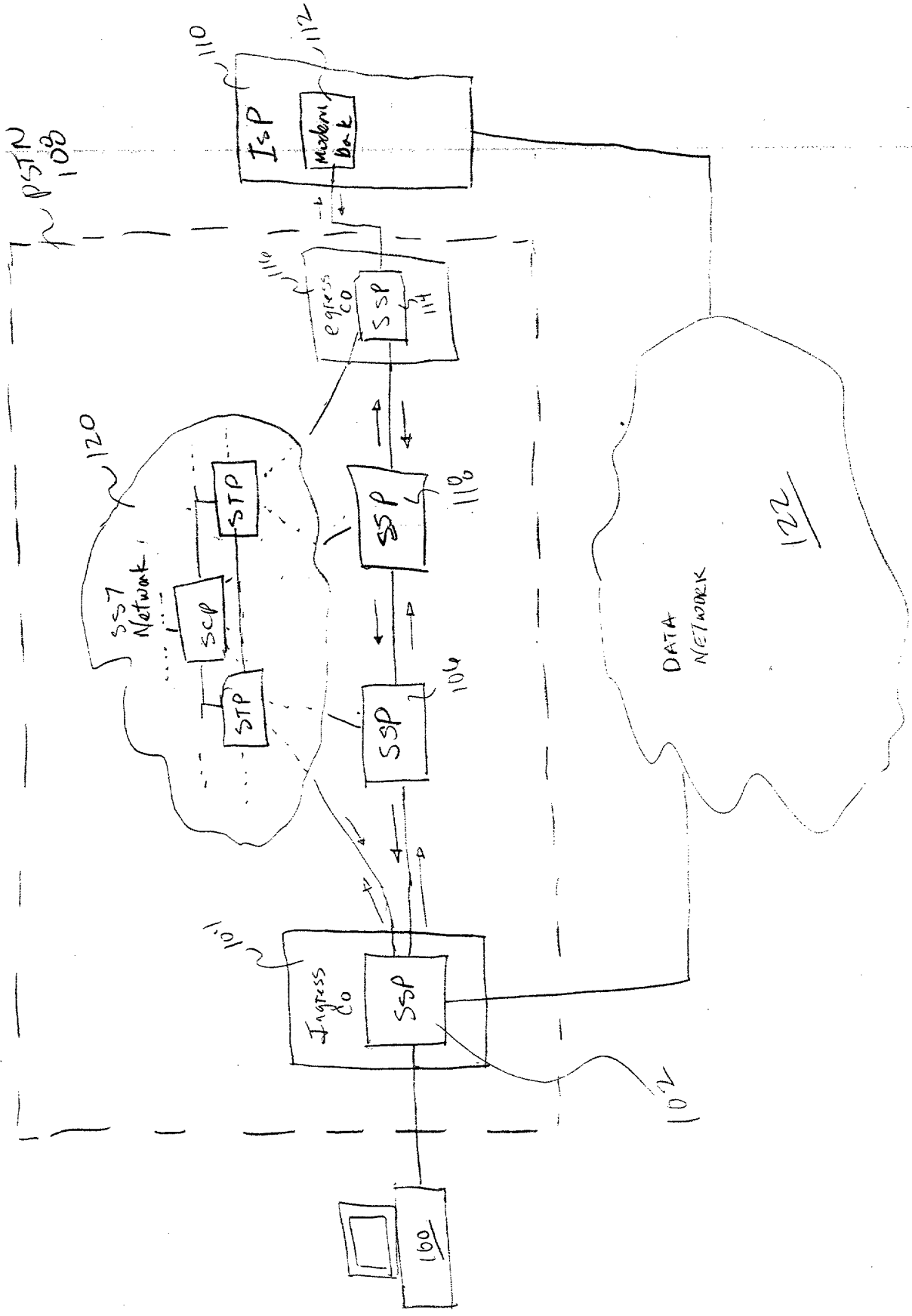


FIGURE 1

[illegible]

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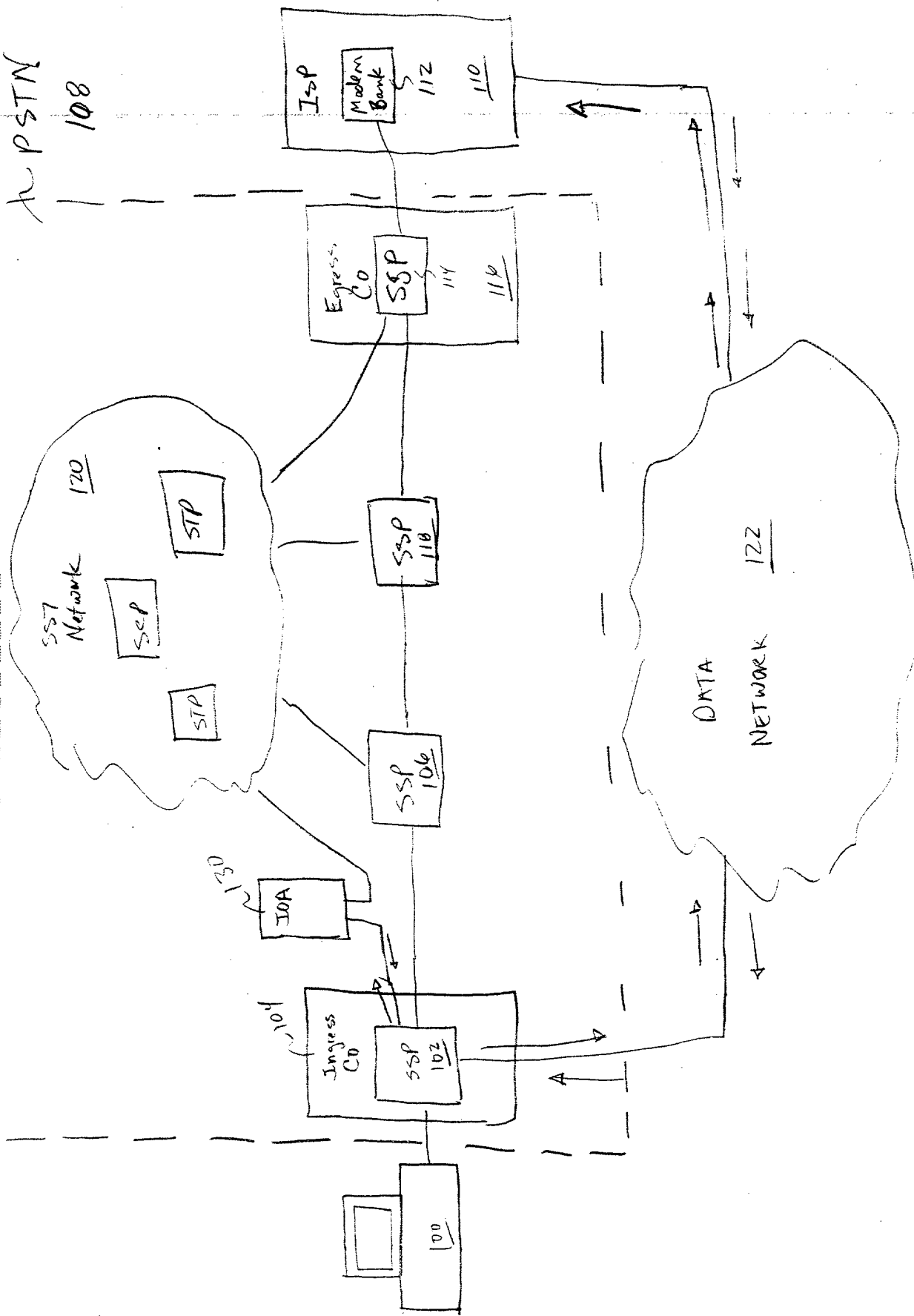


Figure 2

IOA 130

ICM 134

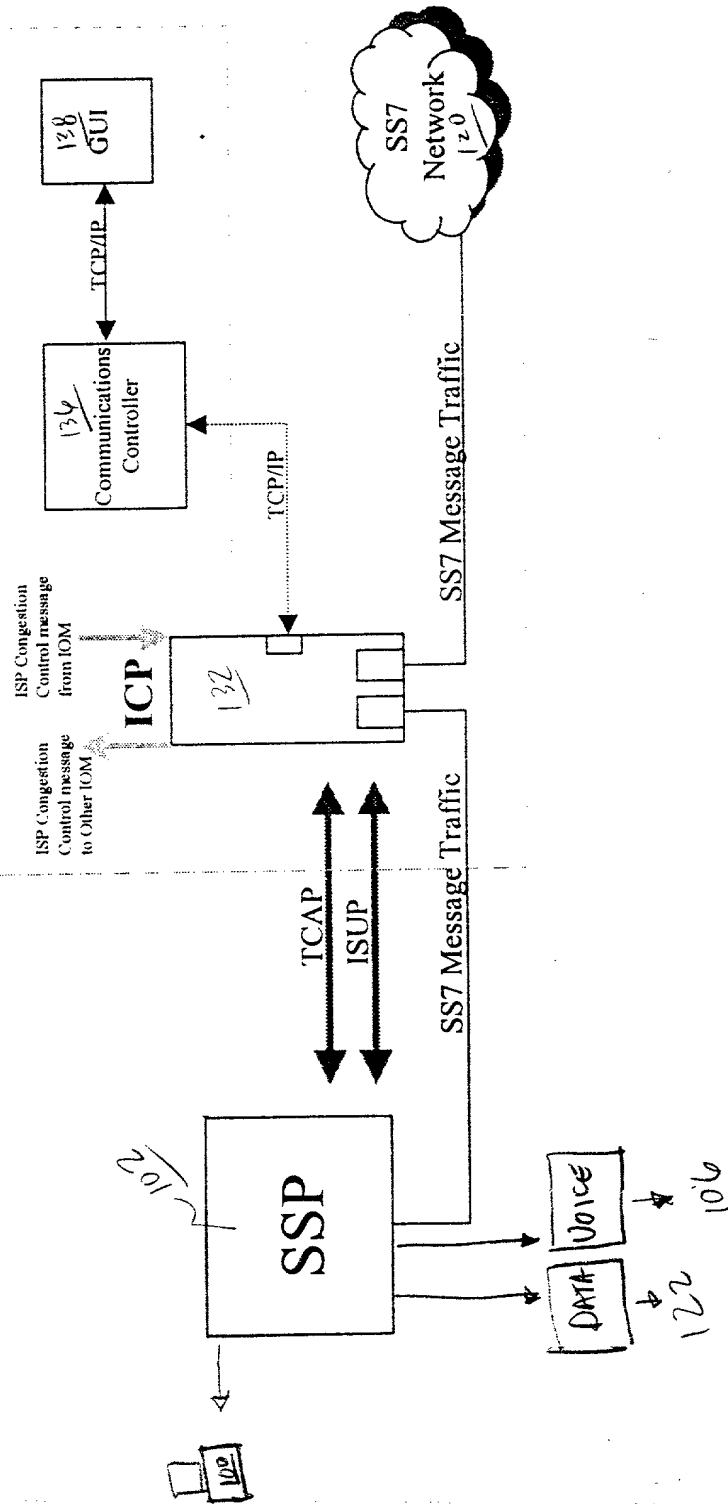


FIGURE 3.



FIGURE 4

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR
PATENT APPLICATION**

As below named inventors, we hereby declare that:

Our residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to our names;

We believe we are the original, first and sole joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**NEW AND IMPROVED SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
DATA TRAFFIC REDIRECTION**

the specification of which: (check one)

XXX is attached hereto.

_____ was filed on _____
under Attorney's Docket Number _____
as Application Serial No. _____
and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 USC 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As named inventors, we hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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